



## NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
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### ***Kernan: 9,000 workers to benefit from \$1.15 million grant for statewide building trades initiative***

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. —Gov. Joe Kernan today announced a \$1.15 million training grant to upgrade the skills of more than 9,000 of the state's building trades workers.

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the funding will allow journeypersons in the building trades industry to take general education and technical classes at Ivy Tech State College campuses throughout the state, resulting in college credit that can be applied to an associate or baccalaureate degree in the construction industry.

"The construction industry is poised for significant growth in Indiana," said Kernan. "This ongoing partnership between Ivy Tech and the industry helps ensure that Indiana has qualified workers to meet the demand. Not only does this program benefit the individual worker, it also strengthens the industry and the state's workforce as a whole. "

A part of the state's Skills 2016 program, the funding for the grant comes from the state's Unemployment Insurance Penalty and Interest Fund. Since the program began in 1997, more than \$13.2 million has been awarded, helping nearly 20,000 Hoosiers improve their skills.

"We are pleased to once again partner with the state to extend training opportunities to more Hoosiers. This effort will enhance each journeypersons' skills as they face the inevitable technology changes in the workplace," said Ivy Tech President Gerald Lamkin. "It's a worthy effort and one in which we are proud to participate. We wish to thank Governor Kernan and the Department of Workforce Development for their continued support."

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other Indiana Department of Workforce Development programs, call 1-800-465-416 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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